

Torrance, California  
November 25, 1952

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber of the City Hall on Wednesday, November 25, 1952, at 8:00 p.m., Mayor Schwab presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, Spelman and Schwab. Also present were City Manager <sup>Stevens</sup> and City Attorney Hall.

Councilman Benstead led the salute to our Flag.

As first order of business, Councilman Spelman moved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 12, 1952, be approved as written. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Mayor Schwab announced the time had arrived for the opening of bids on Specification No. 9, "For Construction of a Million Gallon Steel Tank", in connection with the water expansion program of the City of Torrance. City Clerk Bartlett opened and read the following bids:

<u>Bidder:</u>	<u>Total Bid</u>
American Pipe and Steel	\$ 47,200.00 (Bid Bond)
Chicago Bridge & Iron Works	41,210.00 (Certified Check)
Consolidated Western Steel	43,750.00 (Bid Bond)
Pittsburg-Des Moines Steel	43,150.00 (Bid Bond)

City Manager Stevens recommended that all bids be referred to the Engineering Department for checking and recommendation at the next meeting. Councilman Spelman so moved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

Councilman Drale said he understood that people in the area near the site of this proposed tank had started a petition, asking that the tank be placed in a manufacturing zone. City Manager Stevens replied that he had received a general petition, but none stating that particular request.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

City Clerk Bartlett read the following:

(a) Communication addressed to Mayor Schwab from Mr. Arthur J. Will, Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Los Angeles, forwarding a copy of a resolution adopted by the County Board of Supervisors, concerning the establishment of a Citizen's Committee to assist in solving the Air Pollution problem, and requesting that he forward the name and address of his appointee not later than November 14.

(b) Communication addressed to Mayor Schwab and Members of the City Council from Mr. Don C. McMillan, City Manager of the City of Pasadena, enclosing a letter to the Board of Supervisors indicating what the City of Pasadena had done on the request. The letter stated that the Board of City Directors of the City of Pasadena felt that it was not necessary to create such a committee at this time, as the League of California Cities had acted prior to the suggestion of the Board of Supervisors and have formed a Smog Committee with the idea in mind of aiding, abetting and helping to eliminate smog from Los Angeles County.

Discussion followed with Mayor Schwab explaining that a telegram had been received the day after the first communication, urging the immediate appointment so that a meeting could be arranged. Mayor Schwab checked with Councilman Blount to determine if he would be able to attend such a meeting and, upon verification that he would be available, his name was submitted by wire.

Councilman Drale stated that the taxpayers had set up a tremendous fund to do what they can on air pollution and in his opinion this second committee was superfluous. Councilman Drale moved for concurrence with the City of Pasadena. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Councilman Drale moved that a letter be forwarded to the Board of City Directors of the City of Pasadena, complimenting them on their efforts to abate the smog in the County of Los Angeles. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

City Clerk Bartlett asked that the office responsible for writing this letter be designated. Councilman Drale requested that it come from the office of City Manager Stevens.

Communication from Regional Water Pollution Control Board No. 4, Los Angeles Region, forwarding a copy of Resolution No. 52-4, "Waiving Reporting of Sewage Discharges from Family Dwellings". Councilman Blount moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Communication signed by Floyd Galloway, Howard W. Lane and Chas. T. Rippey, requesting that the Street and Engineering Departments survey the drainage situation of the alley in the rear of Lots 19, 20, 21 and 22, Block 75, Torrance Tract, as it appears that Sierra Street is higher than this alley with the result that the water stands particularly in back of Lots 21 and 22 and floods the garages when the rains are heavy. Councilman Benstead said he was familiar with this matter and moved the proper authorities be notified to take care of the request. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Petition bearing eighteen signatures of residents on and in the immediate vicinity of the intersections of Madison and Ward Streets, requesting some improvement which will enable them to travel their street during the wet season of this year.

City Manager Stevens explained that this location was in a sparsely settled portion of the area in which we will prohibit building until the area is drained, if the proposed ordinance is adopted. This drainage project is included in the Bond Issue, but until this is completed there is no way to give relief.

Councilman Drale moved a communication be written, from Mr. Stevens' office, to the person whose signature appears on the first line of the petition, explaining the situation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Communication from Donald Armstrong, regarding the case of the City of Torrance vs. K. Sande Senness, et al, to keep the Council Members abreast of the conduct of the subject litigation and enclosing a statement for his services from October 1, 1952 to date. Councilman Blount moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Communication from W. C. Bradford, Secretary of the Civil Service Board, thanking the Council for their communication of November 14, which requested that eligible lists be maintained for the classified positions of the City of Torrance, and explaining that due to the unsettled condition of the labor market it has been found impossible, as well as impractical, to maintain eligible lists for all classifications, as many of the advertised bulletins have produced no applicants while others have become obsolete almost as soon as promulgated. It is the suggestion of the Civil Service Board that all Department Heads be advised to inform them of their anticipated needs, which the Board will endeavor to supply.

Councilman Benstead moved the letter be filed as a matter of record. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Letter from Metropolitan Water District asking if the City intended to pay, out of its municipal funds, the whole or a stated percentage of the amount of taxes to be derived from the area of the Metropolitan Water District lying within our corporate entity.

Councilman Spelman moved that the Metropolitan Water District be informed the City does not elect to pay out of its municipal funds any portion of the District's taxes levied for the fiscal year 1953-54. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from Mr. A. E. McVicar, Superintendent of Torrance Municipal Water District No. 3, recommending that the Council authorize advertisement for the laying of pipe in order to serve the area west of Ocean Avenue and adjacent to Pacific Coast Highway and that service be permitted to persons in three areas immediately adjacent to the district, two being located between 190th Street and 196th Street on the west side of Hawthorne Avenue and the other being on the north side of Sepulveda Boulevard at Linda Drive.

Councilman Drale moved the Council concur with the above stated recommendations of Mr. McVicar. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Communication from drivers of the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, signed by Sherman Miller, Chairman of the Drivers Committee, requesting the Council to take action to accomplish the purchase of adequate equipment, either through an appropriation or a bond issue.

Councilman Blount moved the communication be held for discussion at the next Agenda Meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Request of Mr. and Mrs. Lannis Trahan, for permission to open a Gymnasium and Recreation Center in the building located at 1953-1/2 West Carson Street.

Councilman Spelman moved the communication be referred to Police Chief Stroh for his recommendation and that the matter be discussed at the next Agenda Meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried.

Request of Herbert Goodman, 623 North Lafayette Park Place, Los Angeles, for permission to obtain a license to operate a pawn-broking establishment at 1332 El Prado.

Councilman Drale moved the communication be referred to the Chief of Police for his recommendation at the next regular Council meeting. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

#### Recommendations of City Manager Stevens:

##### PERSONNEL:

- (a) That Paul Drury be re-employed as a Bus Operator on a temporary basis, during the absence of James Hale on sick leave.
- (b) That the following appointments in the Water Department be made on a temporary basis:

- (1) Evelyn M. Neely, Account Clerk, effective October 21, 1952.
- (2) Richard T. Janssen, Laborer, effective November 17, 1952.
- (3) William J. Janssen, Laborer, effective November 20, 1952.

Compensation for the above appointments to be at the first salary step.

Councilman Spelman moved the Council concur with the recommendations under "Personnel". Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

##### APPROPRIATIONS:

- (a) To James M. Montgomery for engineering and inspection services the sum of \$2,783.28. (From Water Bond Funds)
- (b) To Donald Armstrong, the sum of \$637.50, re case of City of Torrance vs. Torrance Sand and Gravel.

Councilman Drale moved the Council concur with the recommendations under "Appropriations". Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

##### TRAFFIC CONTROL:

That the City Attorney be authorized to prepare the necessary ordinance to establish the following regulatory signs, in accordance with the recommendation of the Traffic Commission:

- (a) Four-way STOP at Acacia Avenue and Sonoma Street.

Councilman Benstead moved the Council concur with the recommendation under "Traffic Control". Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

City Clerk Bartlett stated that he was rearranging the work in his office and requested authorization to make a temporary appointment of a Stenographer Clerk for approximately ninety days, the compensation to be at the first step for the classification.

Councilman Drale moved the Council authorize the temporary appointment of a Stenographer Clerk for the City Clerk's office. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

AGA250

City Clerk Bartlett read the title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 2342

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR  
AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE GRANT OF EASEMENT TO  
STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA.

Councilman Spelman moved to dispense with further reading of Resolution No. 2342. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote. Councilman Benstead moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2342. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Councilman Drale asked City Manager Stevens if it would be proper at this time to have the Council approve the adoption of the 1952 Plumbing Code, as some of the plumbing fees had been changed. Mr. Stevens replied that it would be his recommendation that this Code be adopted, but it would have to be done by ordinance.

Councilman Drale moved the City adopt the 1952 Plumbing Code. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Drale moved that a letter be forwarded to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, protesting the elimination of backyard incinerators. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Spelman stated that there was quite a delegation in the audience from Seaside Ranchos, representing property owners on Sharynne Lane where the lots back up to the new development. During the recent rains, sand and dirt have washed down on the developed lots, causing considerable damage to retaining walls and redwood fences. Oral communications on this subject were heard from Messrs. F. Robinson, Vern Olsen, Sam Estes and Walter Shanks, who stated the condition of their property and requested help from the City to alleviate these conditions. A lengthy discussion was held between the City officials and the delegation, with the following action taken:

Councilman Blount moved (a) that the City Attorney take such legal action that he can at the moment to stop this dumping of ground over on to other people's homes; (b) that the City Attorney be authorized to institute immediate dealings with all subdividers in the general area for the removal of soil that has been washed down on these homes and to prevent further encroachments; and (c) that the Engineering Department be instructed not to give any final inspections in any of the tracts in this area, until released by the City Attorney. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

Councilman Spelman moved that an ordinance be drawn as the result of a thorough survey on the part of the Engineering Department, with the cooperation of the Planning Commission, to protect the City against the future problem of soil erosion where homes are built on varying elevations. Councilman Drale seconded the motion. On the recommendation of City Manager Stevens, Councilman Spelman amended the motion to include the requirement that all banks be planted. Councilman Drale seconded the amendment. The amended motion carried unanimously.

Richard Miller, 1024 Hickory Avenue, asked if the matter of changing the minimum square foot area on dwellings had been discussed in open Council meeting and was advised that it had not.

Mr. Tom Babbitt presented the Council members and City Manager with a pamphlet he had prepared on Recreation in the City of Torrance and spoke at some length on the qualifications necessary for a Recreation Director. He also mentioned a communication he had received from Jean Swensen, relative to a Recreational Survey for the City of Torrance and which he stated he would turn over to City authorities. Councilman Benstead thanked Mr. Babbitt for the information he had presented.

Mr. Schoonover asked what could be done about slowing down the speed of automobiles going to and from the Decalite Company near his property, which is located on Madison Street near the southern boundary line of the City of Torrance. He also asked that some action be taken on the drainage across his property. City Manager Stevens informed him that City forces do not go on private property to correct such conditions, but that they do plan on cleaning the channel of foliage so it will have a free flow, and will go over the matter with Mr. Perkins, Street Superintendent.

City Manager Stevens presented a bundle of delinquent dog license slips, which he stated represented over 2,000 dogs in this city that are not licensed. He asked that careful consideration be given on how to correct this situation and that the matter be discussed at the next Agenda Meeting.

City Manager Stevens presented the petition he had received in protest to the water tank and stated that it had always been planned to locate it at this site. The matter is to be further discussed at the next Agenda Meeting.

City Manager Stevens advised the Council that on December 9, 1952, the Joint Legislative Committee on Agriculture and Livestock Problems will hold a hearing on proposed legislation to prohibit the feeding of raw garbage to hogs, or require that before any garbage is used for feed for livestock it must be cooked. The League of California Cities has been asked to organize the presentation of the municipal viewpoint on this subject and requests that our city present a written statement as to what this prohibition would mean, also that our city be represented at the hearing. Mr. Stevens asked that the Council authorize him to follow the policy set up by other cities on the matter. Councilman Dralle moved the request of Mr. Stevens be approved. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried.

There being no further business, Councilman Spelman moved all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote.

At 9:55 p.m. Councilman Blount moved the meeting adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Spelman, carried.

  
CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

APPROVED:

  
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

AGA280